What is claimed is:

1. A method for operating a voice-based telecommunications device, comprising:

(a) monitoring the voice-based telecommunications device for at least one of an on-hook state and off-hook state; and

(b) when the one of the on-hook state and off-hook state is detected, automatically resetting at least one acoustic characteristic to a predetermined level.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein in step (a) the on-hook state is monitored for and further comprising:

(c) monitoring the voice-based telecommunications device for an off-hook state; and

(d) when the off-hook state is detected, performing steps (a) and (b).

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the monitoring step (a) comprises comparing an electrical parameter of the voice-based telecommunications device to a predetermined value.

4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

(c) when the on- or off-hook state is detected, altering the state of a state indicator; and wherein the resetting step (b) comprises detecting the altered state of the state indicator and resetting the acoustic parameter to the predetermined level in response thereto.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein in the automatically resetting step (b) the acoustic parameter is decreased to the predetermined level.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the predetermined level is user adjustable.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the acoustic parameter is volume.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein, when the telecommunications device is in an off-hook state, the acoustic parameter is freely adjustable by a user.

9. A voice-based telecommunications device, comprising:

a state detector that detects one or more of an on-hook and off-hook state of the telecommunications device; and

when the one or more of the on-hook and off-hook state is detected, an automatic reset that automatically resets at least one acoustic characteristic of the voice-based telecommunications device to a predetermined level.

10. The device of Claim 9, wherein the state detector monitors the voice-based telecommunications device for an off-hook state and when the off-hook state is detected, the state detector then monitors the voice-based telecommunications device for the on-hook state.

11. The device of Claim 9, wherein the state detector compares an electrical parameter of the telecommunications device to a predetermined value.

12. The device of Claim 9, further comprising:

a state indicator that indicates in a first mode the on-hook state is and in a second mode an off-hook state.

13. The device of Claim 9, wherein the acoustic parameter is one or more of volume, frequency response contour, and audio compression.

14. The device of Claim 9, wherein, when the telecommunications device is in an off-hook state, the acoustic parameter is freely adjustable by a user.

15. The device of Claim 9, wherein the acoustic parameter is associated with at least one of a receive signal, a transmit signal, and a side tone signal.

16. The device of Claim 9, wherein the telecommunication device further comprises a power source and an amplifier.

17. A system for controlling operation of a telecommunications device, comprising:

detecting means for detecting an on-hook or off-hook state of the telecommunications device; and

resetting means for automatically resetting at least one acoustic characteristic of the telecommunications device to a predetermined level, when the on-hook or off-hook state is detected by the detecting means.

18. The system of Claim 17, wherein the detecting means in a first mode detects the on-hook state and in a second, different mode, detects an off-hook state.

19. The system of Claim 17, wherein the detecting means compares an electrical parameter of the telecommunications device to a predetermined value.

20. The system of Claim 17, wherein the detecting means detects the on-hook state and further comprising:

when the on-hook state is detected, altering means for altering the state of a state indicator; and wherein the resetting means detects the altered state of the state indicator and resets the acoustic parameter to the predetermined level in response thereto.

21. The system of Claim 17 wherein the resetting means increases the acoustic parameter to the predetermined level.

22. The system of Claim 17, wherein the predetermined level is user adjustable.

23. The system of Claim 17, wherein the acoustic parameter is at least one of volume, frequency response contour, and audio compression.

24. The system of Claim 17, wherein, when the telecommunications device is in an off-hook state, the acoustic parameter is freely adjustable by a user.

25. The system of Claim 17, wherein the acoustic parameter is associated with at least one of a receive signal, a transmit signal, and a side tone signal.